

City of Durham
2014 Short Session Legislative Agenda

TITLE	LOCAL BILL REQUESTS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
On Street Parking	An Act to Allow the City of Durham to Allow payment for On-Street Parking by Various Means Including Currency, Credit Card or Electronic Means And to Use Proceeds Collected From On-Street Parking for Parking Programs and Providing Parking Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allows for other methods of payment, besides coins or tokens, for on-street parking 2. Allows the City to use on-street parking proceeds for operating the parking program and for providing parking facilities
TITLE	ADVOCACY REQUESTS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Privilege License Fees	OPPOSE cap on Privilege License Fee	The legislation that has been proposed regarding privilege license fees (<i>HB 1050 Omnibus Tax Law Changes</i>) would have an impact on the City's revenues. As proposed, cities across North Carolina would be prohibited from charging more than \$100 for a privilege license. If the City of Durham requires <u>all</u> privilege license holders to pay \$100 (some currently pay less than \$100), the City anticipates a loss of \$1.9M which is equivalent to .77 cents on the tax rate. Assuming the City doesn't make any changes to license holders currently paying less than \$100, the loss is estimated to be \$2.2M which is equivalent to .92 cents on the tax rate.
Property Tax Revenues	OPPOSE cap on Property Tax Revenues	<i>SB 786 Energy Modernization Act</i> includes a provision to cap city tax revenues at 8% of the previous year. A cap on tax revenues could negatively impact the City, and many unanswered questions remain about the provision (e.g., does the provision apply to new debt, how would cities account for new businesses moving to the area, what happens if a city exceeds the 8% cap, etc.).
Trees on Private Property	OPPOSE restrictions on Local Tree Ordinances	A draft bill (<i>Authority to Adopt Local Ordinances</i>) has been introduced in the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission that prevents cities and counties from regulating "the removal, replacement, and preservation of trees on private property within its jurisdiction." The Durham Environmental Affairs Board and the Board of Keep Durham Beautiful have adopted resolutions opposing the bill and the City Council is being asked to adopt a similar resolution included in the Legislative Agenda.
Protest Petitions	OPPOSE legislation that repeals protest petitions	This provision was included in SB 112 (one of many reform bills) and is eligible for the Short Session.
Rental Inspections	OPPOSE legislation that restricts Proactive Rental Inspection Program	HB 773 Local Gov't./Bldgs./Structures/Inspections was passed by the House during the Long Session and is eligible for consideration during the Short Session.

**RESOLUTION BY THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL
REGARDING LEGISLATION TO REMOVE LOCAL AUTHORITY
OVER TREE PRESERVATION**

Whereas the City of Durham is committed to developing environmentally sound, yet reasonable, development regulations that promote not only an attractive community, but one that is thriving and sustainable; and

Whereas the City recognizes numerous benefits in maintaining local authority over trees on private property; and

Whereas the City recognizes the value of trees as an essential part of the urban form and development, thus local authority is essential in how Durham determines how to grow and develop;

Whereas the City of Durham recognizes the importance of local authority to maintain an effective stewardship of the community's natural resources; and

Whereas the City of Durham recognizes the environmental benefits of maintaining local regulation of trees, such as the preservation and enhancement of water quality and watercourses, providing a natural method of improving water quality and reducing stormwater quantity; reduction of heat island effects, maintains natural habitats, reduction of carbon dioxide and production of oxygen; protection of publicly-maintained trees from disease and infestation, prevention of invasive species; and

Whereas the City of Durham recognizes that trees are a contributing factor to the aesthetic value to the community, enhancement of property values, and social and educational opportunities for its residents and visitors.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL:

Oppose any legislation which removes the City's authority to *"adopt or enforce any ordinance, rule, regulation or resolution that regulates the removal, replacement, and preservation of trees on private property."*